

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented): A method for identifying an inhibitor of NACP/ α -synuclein aggregation comprising:

providing a test compound, a first sample and a second sample, wherein each sample comprises NACP/ α -synuclein;

inducing NACP/ α -synuclein aggregation in the first sample and second sample by subjecting them to a metal-ion catalyzed oxidative condition;

exposing the first sample to the test compound;

measuring an aggregation level of NACP/ α -synuclein in the first sample and the second sample; and

comparing the aggregation level of NACP/ α -synuclein in the first sample and with the aggregation level of the second sample, wherein less aggregation in the first sample is indicative that the test compound is an inhibitor of NACP/ α -synuclein aggregation.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the aggregation inhibitor comprises a non-amyloidogenic protein that inhibits aggregation of NACP/ α -synuclein.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the non-amyloidogenic protein comprises β -synuclein.

19. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the aggregation inhibitor comprises an agent that promotes the expression of anti-amyloidogenic proteins.

20. (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein the anti-amyloidogenic protein comprises β -synuclein.

21. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the first sample comprises cells that express NACP/ α -synuclein.

22. (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the cells are neuronal cells.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the neuronal cells comprise cell of the substantia nigra region of the brain.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the metal-ion catalyzed oxidative condition comprise iron ions.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the iron ions comprise a ferric ion or a ferrous ion.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the iron ions comprise a ferric chloride or a ferrous chloride.

27. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the first and the second sample are derived from the same source.

28. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the NACP/ α -synuclein comprises a human recombinant NACP/ α -synuclein.

29-39 (withdrawn)